



**Grow tomato varieties which suit your taste buds and cooking preferences.**

**Saucy types – ideal for relishes, sauces, pickles and preserves.**

- Money Maker – a reliable, flavoursome tomato.
- Amish Paste – a plum shaped, sweet heirloom tomato.
- Russian Red – reliable in cooler climates, with good flavoured round fruits.

**Salads and sandwiches – big fleshy varieties that are not too juicy.**

- Beefsteak – super large and tasty fleshy tomato.
- Black Paste – a dark skinned plum tomato with great slicing ability.
- Oxheart – a fleshy beauty packed with flavour and very few seeds.

**A sweet deal – sweet tasting tomatoes.**

- Tomaccio – 'raisin' tomato that has an intense, sweet flavour.
- Lady Bug – masses of round, rich red tomatoes appear on trusses. This variety is reputed to have one of the quickest harvest times.

**Tight spaces – crops for smaller spots and pots.**

- Tumbling Tom – also a hanging basket tomato, this tomato variety has it all, producing mountains of sugary sweet fruit.
- Dynamo – a compact plant that produces plenty of round red tomatoes.
- Megabite – a compact plant that produces large fruit.

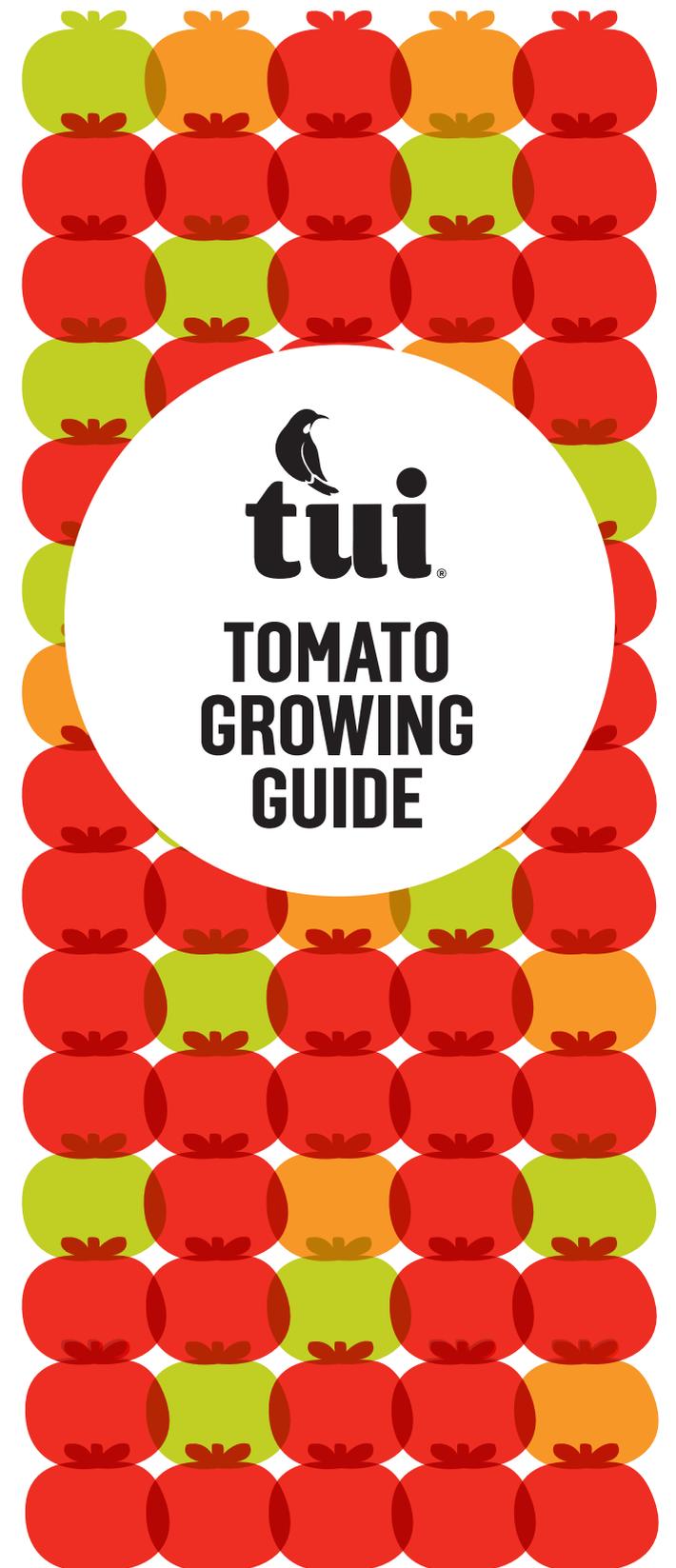
**Truss and vine tomatoes – varieties that all ripen at once in a bunch.**

- Campari – one to look out for if you like roasted vine ripened tomatoes.
- Grape Jolly Elf – a small, grape shaped, thumbnail sized fruit.
- Saxon – produces six tomatoes on each truss, which ripen simultaneously.

**Heirloom – rare and unusual colourful varieties.**

- Black Cherry – ebony black, super sweet cherry tomatoes.
- Yellow Pear – produces enormous numbers of bright yellow, bite-sized, tangy sweet fruit. Perfect for summer hors d'oeuvres.
- Green Sausage – fat lime green fruits with a very sweet flavour.

Reference: Tomatoes for All Occasions by Rachel Vogan.



**GROW A BUMPER CROP OF FLAVOURSOME TOMATOES WITH TUI'S 4 STEP OF TOMATO CARE**

# TUI'S 4 STEPS OF TOMATO CARE

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In sandwiches or salads, roasted or plucked straight from the vine – tomatoes take pride of place in every Kiwi's garden over the summer months, no matter how you choose to enjoy yours. Plant in your garden beds, pots and containers and you'll be harvesting a bumper crop of homegrown tomatoes this summer.

**Shopping list:** Tomato plant, Tui Tomato Mix, Seasol, stakes, Tui Tomato Food, or Tui NovaTec Premium fertiliser if planting in pot and containers, Tui Insect Control for Fruit & Veges, and Tui Disease Control for Fruit & Veges.

## PREPARE

Once the cold weather has passed, and the soils have warmed up its time to plant tomatoes. Labour weekend is known as the traditional tomato planting time but tomato seedlings are usually available in garden centres from August. Choose a variety that suits how you like to enjoy your tomatoes – see overleaf for our suggestions.

The better the soil, the better your plants will grow. If you are starting with an existing garden bed dig in organic matter like sheep pellets and **Tui Compost** to your soil. Then you can add a layer of **Tui Tomato Mix**, specifically formulated with extra potassium to encourage a plentiful harvest of big juicy fruit. It's best practice not to plant your tomatoes in the same spot as last season, or in the same spot as potatoes were planted as diseases can remain in the soil and affect your new crop. If planting in pots and containers use **Tui Tomato Mix**.

## PLANT

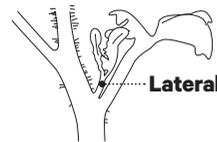
If you're growing from seed rather than seedlings, you'll need to get started about a month earlier to give your seeds time to grow. The best times to plant are early in the morning or late in the day, so the plants aren't exposed to the hot sun straight away.

### Tui Tip:

To reduce the chance of blight, avoid watering plant foliage.

Always water plants well before and after planting. Stake your tomatoes when planting to provide support and avoid damaging the roots later on.

As your tomatoes grow, remove the laterals. These are non-fruiting branches that shoot out from the side of the stem, taking them off directs the tomato plant's energy into growing bigger and better fruit.



### Directions for planting in garden beds:

- Choose a sunny position.
- Before planting your tomato plants, soak in a bucket of **Seasol** seaweed based plant tonic and allow to drain. This will help prevent transplant shock.
- Dig a hole, approximately twice the size of the root ball of your plant.
- Partly fill the hole with **Tui Tomato Mix**.
- Gently loosen the root ball of your plant and position the plant in the centre of the hole.
- Fill in with **Tui Tomato Mix**.
- Press soil gently around the base of the plant.
- Water your plant well.

### Directions for planting in pots and containers:

- Before planting your tomato plants, soak in a bucket of **Seasol** seaweed based plant tonic and allow to drain. This will help prevent transplant shock.
- Partly fill your container with **Tui Tomato Mix**.
- Gently loosen the root ball of your plant and position the plant in the centre of the container.
- Fill your container with **Tui Tomato Mix** up to 3cm from the top.
- Tap the container gently on the ground to settle the mix.
- Press soil gently around the base of the plant.
- Water your plant well.

## NOURISH

Plants use nutrients from the soil as they grow, so replenishing nutrients used by your tomatoes ensures they will grow to their full potential. For tomatoes planted in garden beds feed every four weeks during key growth periods of spring and summer. **Tui Tomato Food** is a blend of nitrogen, phosphorus and a generous amount of potassium formulated to promote the growth and fruiting potential of all types of tomatoes. For tomatoes in pots and containers use **Tui NovaTec Premium** fertiliser. Well watered, well nourished tomatoes will have a better chance of keeping insect pests and diseases at bay.

## PROTECT

Protect your tomatoes from the elements with layers of **Tui Pea Straw Mulch**, to help keep their roots moist in the warmer months, to keep fruit off the soil and to help keep your garden weed free. Aphids, whitefly, scale and two-spotted mite are common insects which affect tomatoes, and can be controlled with **Tui Insect Control for Fruit & Veges**. Treat powdery mildew on tomatoes with **Tui Disease Control for Fruit & Veges**. Also, birds love juicy tomatoes – put up netting to protect yours.



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